



**The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International**  
**DKG Michigan State Organization**  
*Serving Women Educators from Western Wayne County*  
*Gamma Alpha is a Proud Member of Detroit Metro Coordinating Council*  
**Spring 2023**  
**Volume 43, Issue 3**

## **GAMMA ALPHA BULLETIN**

### **Presidents' Message**



### **Judi Fisher & Jackie Smart, Co-Presidents**

Gamma Alpha Members,

A I write this message, Michigan is experiencing an ice storm and power outages. Judi is enjoying a Caribbean cruise with her husband. I am cooling off after my walk in mid-80s Florida. I hope all of you are safe and warm.

Change is happening in DKG Michigan. DKG Webmaster, Tamara Webster, is in the process of updating DKG Michigan website. The URL is still <http://dkgmichigan.org>. Many of the links are password protected. More information when the website is operational.

The State Convention will be held April 21-23, 2023. We have a room block reserved at DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Port Huron (formerly the Thomas Edison Inn.) Page 11 of *The Wolverine* gives you registration and hotel information. All registration will be done through the state website. At this time we are being told there will be no paper registration forms. Gamma Alpha is encouraging your attendance in Port Huron by allotting \$100 towards registration/expenses at the convention. Just save receipts and give to Cindy after the event. We hope many of you take advantage of the convention stipend.

March is Women's History Month. Carol Anderson's

sister-in-law will be speaking to Gamma Alpha at the Northville Library about her experiences as a nurse in Vietnam. It should be a very interesting meeting for all attendees. Afterwards, we will find a place to eat in downtown Northville. Please try to attend and bring a friend to the meeting.

Jackie & Judi

### **IN THIS ISSUE**



- 2 Calendar**
- 3 Birthdays**
- 4 Minutes**
- 6 Story Ladies**
- 8 Food Tips & Recipes**
- 10 Book Report**
- 12 Seedlings**
- 13 Op Ed**

**Next Meeting**  
March 16, 2023  
**Northville Library**

See Calendar for Details

**Zoom link for  
Virtual meetings**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/  
j/5760748757](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5760748757)

Meeting ID: 576 074 8757  
Meeting password dkg

or  
Dial by your location

## Calendar 2022-2023



### March 16, 2023 (Thursday)

Membership Meeting at Archie's Restaurant

**Time:** 5:30 - 6:30 P.M.

**Place:** **Northville District Library**

212 W. Cady Street

Northville, MI 48167

Friends Community Room (Basement-there is an elevator)



**Hostess:** Carol Anderson

**Meeting:** March is Women's History Month - commemorating and encouraging the study, observance, and celebration of the vital role of women in American history. The nurses who served in the Vietnam War are among the least recognized of American military veterans. Despite the long hours and sometimes horrifying wounds these women had to face, many nurses found their service rewarding. They were able to serve their country and save and comfort the wounded men in their facilities. During the Vietnam War 98% of the men who were wounded and made it to the hospital survived. Carol Anderson's sister, Peg, will share her experiences as a M\*A\*S\*H nurse during the Vietnam War. Please try to attend and show your support. Bring a friend, too.

### April 21-23, 2023 (Friday-Sunday)

DKG Michigan State Convention and Spring Executive Board Meeting

DoubleTree by Hilton (Former Thomas Edison Inn)

800 Harker Street

Port Huron, MI 48060

Gamma Alpha is offering a \$100 stipend towards registration expenses for your attendance at our State Convention.

### May 18, 2023 (Thursday)

Membership Meeting - 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Birthday Dinner

**Place:** Genitti's Hole-in The Wall

108 E. Main Street

Northville, MI

**Time:** 5:30 - 7:30 P.M.

**Cost:** \$25 (Flyer will be available – Prepay for dinner)

**Hostess:** Linda Clark & Carole Lower

**Meeting:** We will be honoring our Chapter Woman of Distinction and the local Friend of Education. We will be presenting the Grant-in-Aid Recipient check and Anniversary pins for some members. We will honor our Chapter Woman of Distinction. We will be conducting some business, e.g. Induction of New members, collect Service Project donations and **dues**. Dues are **\$85** cash or check payable to 'Gamma Alpha.' More information as the date nears.

### June 17, 2023

Membership Planning Meeting and Luncheon

**Time:** 11:00 A.M. to 2:30 P.M.

**Place:** TBD

**Hostess:** TBD

**Meeting:** We will meet for our annual planning meeting from 11:00 to 2:30 PM. Amy will create a 'Sign-up Genius' for the luncheon. Bring or email program ideas to this fun end of the calendar year activity.

## **July 11 - 16, 2023 International Conference** (Information on [dkg.org/events](http://dkg.org/events))

Westin Book Cadillac Hotel

1114 Washington Blvd, Detroit, MI 48226

**Moving Forward with Vitality, Relevance, and Sustainability in Our Changing World”**

The energetic and inspiring atmosphere of Motor City and Motown await conference participants in this beautiful city! Join your DKG colleagues at the historic and newly renovated Westin Book Cadillac Hotel in downtown Detroit to relax and strengthen your well-being. Gamma Alpha is offering a \$100 stipend towards registration expenses for your attendance at this International Conference.

### **Spring Birthdays**

#### **March**

- 1 Diane Frangie
- 13 Esther Loskowske
- 14 Marilyn Wallenmaier
- 15 Jessica Walker

#### **April**

- 1 Lynne Elsesser
- 3 Marcia Scarr

#### **May**

- 5 Liz Frazier



## January 18, 2023 Executive Board Minutes

The Zoom Executive Board Meeting was called to order at 6:07 by Co-President Jackie Smart. Members present: Amy Wright, Jackie Smart, Judi Fisher, Margie Sievert, Linda Dobrzeniecki, Carole Lower, and Pam Sayre.

**PRESIDENTS' REPORT:** Jackie reported that she completed Form 2 (Death of a Member Annual Report) and it is ready to send Feb 1. Carol Holland is the only member that died this year. She also completed Form 6 (Death of a Member) that was sent to State Membership Chair, State Necrology chair, State Treasurer and Membership Services - International after Carol's passing.

**VP/MEMBERSHIP REPORT:** Amy Wright reported that we have a prospective member. Amy made an electronic copy of the prospect card that should be easier to use.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

**Checking balance: \$2134.98 Savings balance: \$20,929.15.**

Margie Sievert moved that we donate \$200 to Schools for Africa-International, Members Supporting Members, and World Fellowships Fund. Judi Fisher seconded the motion. Motion passed. There was some discussion about adopting another child for Seedlings. Margie Sievert moved to adopt another child for \$100. It was seconded by Judi Fisher. For \$100, a child can get 10 Braille books. Motion passed.

**AUCTION REPORT:** \$2537.76 profit

**YEARBOOK:** Gamma Alpha's yearbook was sent to Executive Secretary by the December 1 due date.

**SERVICE PROJECTS REPORT:** Judy Morante, Service Projects Chair sent a message for the newsletter:

*Thank you, thank you to Gamma Alpha members. You brought a lot of joy to the three residents of Beverly House. With the monetary donations I purchased \$100 in gift cards to Buffalo Wild Wings for a nice Christmas outing and a \$50 gift card to Starbucks for another outing. This will be special for the girls as they have very few opportunities to make food choices in their lives. In addition, each girl received a gift bag filled with more than \$50 worth of wonderful surprises. Thank you again for your generosity. Judy Morante, Service Project Chair*

## Minutes, cont.

**SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS:** Joanna Eiwen/Amy Mullins are Co-Chairs. Joanna sent a report that one candidate from WWCS D has applied. We have enough money for two Grant-in-Aids. Discussion followed. Judi will contact Amy about checking with candidates from her district.

### NEW BUSINESS:

- Discussion about Chapter Woman of Distinction - a candidate was selected. The name will be revealed at the State Convention and at the Birthday Dinner.
- Friend of Education recommendation - Judi Fisher will talk to Judy Morante, whose daughter works in the Northville Schools Board Office, for a potential candidate.
- President's Award and Award of the Rose forms will be sent to the state by Jackie Smart.
- State Convention will be held in Port Huron on April 21, 22, 2023 at the Double Tree in Port Huron. There was some discussion if chapter might encourage attendance by subsidizing the registration fee for those who want to attend. Pam Sayre moved that we allot money up to \$100 per person for State Convention registration fee. The motion was seconded by Amy Wright. Motion passed.
- There was also discussion about International Convention that is being held in Detroit July 11-16, 2023. Pam Sayre moved that we allot money up to \$100 per person for the International Conference registration fee for those who want to attend. The motion was seconded by Amy Wright. Motion passed.

### UPCOMING MEETINGS:

February 15, 2023 at 6:00 Zoom. Virtual Scavenger hunt

March 16, 2023 at 5:30 at Archie's Restaurant. (30471 Plymouth Road in Livonia)

Carol Anderson's sister-in-law, Margaret Flatt will share her experiences as a nurse during the Vietnam War. Please try to attend and show your support.

Respectively submitted,

Margie Sievert Co-Recording Secretary





## Grinch Day at Elliott



## Story Ladies Strike Again!

### **The Story Ladies Come to Elliott Elementary on Grinch Day!**

Four Gamma Alpha members and one guest read at Elliott Elementary in Wayne-Westland Community Schools on December 16. When we arrived we saw Grinch footprints in the halls of the school. The Grinch has definitely been sneaking around Elliott. Teachers were dressed as characters from “How the Grinch Stole Christmas.”

We were welcomed by all of the teachers. We wore antlers, just like Max from “How the Grinch Stole Christmas.” Our totes were filled with holiday and winter books to read and candy canes for the K-5 children. We read to 3 or 4 classrooms each during the morning. Gamma Alpha donated a book for each classroom library. We will be reading at the end of March for Reading Month.



## Tips and Tricks

### Jamie Oliver Budget Friendly Tips and Tricks

***Thanks, Amy Wright for sending this to me.***

Good food really doesn't have to bust the budget — and even little changes to your routine can make a big difference.

#### **Plan Your Week**

Be sure to check your fridge, freezer, and cupboards before you go shopping so you know exactly what you need AND make a list.

#### **Batch Cook Budget Friendly Recipes**

Cook once, eat twice or thrice.

#### **Be Energy Efficient**

One of the most energy-efficient appliances in the kitchen is the microwave, so don't be afraid to make the most of it. Even though the oven is more expensive to run, it's not the enemy — just make sure you fill it up. Other top tips are to make sure you pop a lid on your pans when cooking on the stove to keep the heat in, and chop veggies smaller to help them cook quicker.

#### **Love Your Leftovers**

#### **Reduce Waste**

No one can afford to waste food. You are throwing money away. Cook smart by understanding the difference between best-before dates and use-by dates. It's ok to cut the mold off hard cheese. Use up leftover bits and pieces by melting it on pizzas or in quesadillas. It's a great idea to save Parmesan rinds too — add them to soups, stews or risottos, as they cook down and add delicious flavor. You can grate hard cheese and freeze it in sandwich bags, ready to sprinkle straight onto pasta bakes or pizzas before cooking. Unless fruits and vegetables are moldy or wrinkly, they are fine to eat. If you have a glut of veg, chop them into a curry, soup, or pasta sauce and freeze the leftovers. Stale bread can be used in panzanella, bread and butter pudding, use your food processor and turn into homemade breadcrumbs.

#### **Fresh Herbs**

Recipes often call for fresh herbs, but we rarely use as much as we buy, because they don't last long. Trim the stalks, wrap them in damp paper towels and storing them in the fridge. The only exception is basil — keep it out of the fridge! If you're not planning on using up your herbs anytime soon, however, chop them and combine with softened butter and crushed garlic for delicious garlicky herb butter. You can freeze both until you need them.

#### **Go Tin**

Cooking with cans can seriously deliver on the flavor front, without breaking the bank. Legumes are not only affordable, they're also versatile and a source of protein and fiber.

#### **Go Seasonal**

Cooking with seasonal fruit and veg is a great way to try new flavors, keep your diet varied and save a bit of money, as seasonal produce tends to be more affordable.

JamieOliver.com

June 20, 2022 in *Cheap & Cheerful*



# Recipes

## Florida Chicken Wellington

### Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
- 4 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves, thinly sliced
- 2 teaspoons Creole seasoning
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 2 sheets frozen puff pastry, thawed
- 4 slices cooked bacon, crumbled
- 4 ounces Brie cheese, cut into 4 slices



### Directions

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees F. Grease a piece of parchment paper on a baking sheet.
2. Heat olive oil in a skillet over medium heat. Season chicken breasts with Creole seasoning, salt, and pepper; cook until evenly browned, about 2 minutes per side. Transfer to a plate to cool.
3. Cut each puff pastry sheet in half. Place one sliced chicken breast on each half; top with 1/4 of the bacon and one Brie cheese slice. Fold top and bottom of pastry over chicken. Press pastry seams together with your fingers to seal; place seam-side down on prepared baking sheet.
4. Cook in the preheated oven until pastry is golden brown and chicken is no longer pink in the center, 15 to 20 minutes. An instant-read thermometer inserted into the center should read at least 165 degrees F.



## What Are We Reading?

### ***The Night She Disappeared*** **By Lisa Jewell**

I'm a big fan of Lisa Jewell's storytelling so I couldn't wait to get my hands on her latest mystery, *The Night She Disappeared*. I knew I would be in for a wild ride and I was not disappointed. Buckle up!

It's 2017, and nineteen year old Tallulah and her boyfriend have left their baby with Tallulah's mom, Kim, while they go out for a much-needed night on the town. When they don't return home, Kim becomes frantic because it's just not like Tallulah to be irresponsible. After calling all her daughter's friends and learning only that Tallulah had decided to go to a party at Dark Place, a mysterious house in the nearby woods, Kim decides it's time to call the police. The police investigate but there's just no sign of either of them, dead or alive.

Two years later, Sophie moves to the same town. Sophie's husband has just taken a job as headmaster at a local boarding school and they'll be living in a house on campus. One day while wandering in the woods around the school, Sophie comes across a note affixed to a tree that reads "DIG HERE." The note looks pretty new so, intrigued, Sophie does as instructed, unaware that she is about to uncover new evidence in Tallulah's missing persons case.

My favorite part of this story is how Jewell lets the pieces of this mystery come together through dual timelines. The 2017 timeline shows us both the lead up to what ultimately happens with Tallulah and her boyfriend, as well as the initial police investigation as witnessed through the eyes of Kim, who is determined to find out what happened to her daughter.

(Continued on page 11)

## Gamma Alpha Executive Board & Committees



**Co-Presidents:** Judi Fisher & Jackie Smart

**Co-Vice-President & Membership:** Amy Wright & Jennifer LaRose

**Co-Recording Secretary:** Linda Dobrzeniecki & Margie Sievert

**Treasurer:** Cindy Dietz

**Parliamentarian:** Pam Sayre

### **Committees**

**Grant-in-Aid -** Joanna Eiwen & Amy Mullins

**Newsletter/Yearbook –** Jackie Smart

**Service Projects -** Judy Morante, Lynne Elsesser, Carole Lower, Linda Clark, & Judi Fisher

**Finance -** Judi Fisher

**Sunshine -** Fran Saenz

**50/50 -** Cindy Dietz & Fran Saenz & Beth Banker

**Gamma Alpha Annual Auction -** Jackie Smart, Carol Anderson, Margie Sievert, Carole Lower, Pam Husson, Diane Frangie, Lynne Bemer, Sarah Elsesser, Judi Fisher, Lynne Elsesser, Beth Banker, Cindy Dietz (& all Gamma Alpha Members)

### **Websites**

**DKG International**  
[www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org)

**DKG Michigan State Organization**  
[www.dkgmichigan.org](http://www.dkgmichigan.org)

**DKG Gamma Alpha**  
[www.migammaalpha.org](http://www.migammaalpha.org)

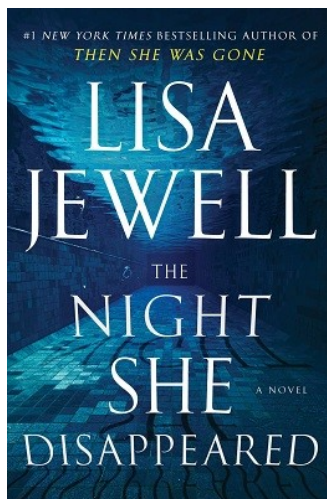
(Continued from page 10)

I was so heartbroken for Kim because I just can't even imagine how she could go on from day to day, raising her grandson alone and wondering everyday what had become of his mother. I was also very sympathetic to Tallulah herself because it becomes clear she had some pretty major issues that she was dealing with up until the time of her disappearance.

The second timeline, which Sophie really kicks into motion with her digging, focuses on what the new evidence brings to light as Sophie decides to do a little sleuthing on her own. Sophie is an author of cozy mysteries who is currently suffering from writer's block so she goes into this thinking it might help inspire her to write. She has no idea what she is getting herself into as she slowly starts to put together the pieces and gets closer to the truth than anyone has gotten thus far.

It's definitely a slow burn when it comes to learning the fate of Tallulah and her boyfriend, but the journey is filled with plenty of twists and turns, riveting drama, ever increasing suspense and tension, and a wonderfully intricate plot that will keep you guessing until the very end. Though Jewell seamlessly weaves together multiple timelines and perspectives, I had to develop a solid understanding of what was happening in each timeline and how they related to one another before I could really concentrate on the storyline and characters. Once that occurred, I was fully invested in the characters and the mystery.

I've read three of Jewell's thrillers so far and *The Night She Disappeared* is my favorite. If you're looking for a read that will keep you turning pages until the wee hours of the morning, *The Night She Disappeared* is the book for you.



## Seedlings Needs Volunteers

### Seedlings Braille Books for Children Needs YOU!

Katelyn Lucas, Seedlings Community Outreach, is reaching out for help with their online auction this year. Katelyn gave us the tour of Seedlings in October. Last year was the first time Seedlings utilized volunteer help to solicit prizes and donations for their online auction and it was a huge part of why they hit their goal of \$50,000. That said, their goal is raised each year and the only way they can meet these goals, is with help. They have a very large list of sponsors and prize donors that grow each year. And they need help with calling potential sponsors and prize donors to try and hit their goal this year!

Katelyn was wondering when the time comes for making calls, sending emails, and picking up prizes if anyone from our chapter would be interested in helping. According to Katelyn, the time commitment will be completely up to you, as you can choose to do as little or as much as you would like. You can work from home on your time or you are welcome to come to their office — as long as you schedule your time in. They are in the early stages of seeing who has an interest, so they can form a solid group of volunteers.

Please let me Katelyn know your thoughts if you are interested. The solicitation will likely commence in May and go through October. The auction is in November. You can contact Katelyn at (734)427-8552 Ext 307.



Debra Bonde, founder of Seedlings, with a young Braille reader,



## Treasure Hunting - Gamma Alpha Style

I am sitting in my cozy condo in Holland on an icy February day reading *The Wolverine* which recently came in the mail. It is like a treasure hunt and the treasure is comprised of Gamma Alpha members. I want to send a shout-out to my fellow Gamma Alpha members! Our chapter so well represented in the state newsletter. Here are the treasures I found:

- Cindy Dietz, our treasurer, is presenting a session at the State Convention in April “How to Recruit and Reinstate Members” with Karen Lessnau-Scott. Cindy is also State Membership Chair and talks with the newbies prior to the convention.
- Judi Fisher has been registrar for many conventions and is for April’s state convention in Port Huron. She also accompanies the State President on chapter visitations.
- Amy Wright has held many positions for our chapter. She was Past Chapter President and tech master for our chapter. Amy uses her tech skills at the state level as well. She sets up the streaming of sessions. Amy is once again on DKG slate for State Corresponding Secretary for 2023-2025. Amy also led the Chapter Roundtable session at Fall Convention 2022.
- Our very own Jackie Smart, former State President, current Chapter Co-President, Metro Council President, and chairman of the Nominations and Personnel Committees at the state led a three leadership sessions during the summer and the follow-up at Fall Conference 2022!
- I was also saddened to see Carol Holland in White Roses Memoriam whom we lost on November 29. What a wonderful teacher, mentor to many, and Gamma Alpha member. She will be missed.
- Former GA member, Colleen Retherford (now Chapter President of Epsilon Chapter in Kalamazoo) is nominated for State First Vice-President.

I found every one of our Gamma Alpha ‘treasures’ in the winter *The Wolverine*. These Key Women Educators work tirelessly and make our chapter strong. As you can see, ‘treasure hunting’ through *The Wolverine* during a major ice storm caused me to reflect on what activism in many forms can produce for all of us! I am proud to be a member of DKG Gamma Alpha Chapter.

Submitted by Pam Emerson

